

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 01280 241841Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05 /071 W
-----121889 250532Z /13

R 241224Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8960
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1280

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, IN, PK
SUBJECT: VAJPAYEE VISIT TO PAKISTAN

REF: NEW DELHI 702, ISLAMABAD 700

1. THE NEW DELHI PRESS HAS TREATED EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER VAJPAYEE'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN FEBRUARY 6-8,
ANNOUNCED JANUARY 23, AS A CONTINUATION OF THE JANATA
GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. PRESS REPORTS EXPRESSING AN OPINION
ON THE VISIT HAVE BEEN OPTIMISTIC THAT INDIA AND PAKISTAN
CAN DERIVE MUTUAL BENEFIT, PRIMARILY ECONOMIC, FROM
"MOVING FORWARD FROM THE PRESENT STAGNANT STATE OF NORMALCY TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 01280 241841Z

A MORE POSITIVE COOPERATION." THE REPORTS HAVE OBVIOUSLY
BEEN INFLUENCED BY AN MEA BRIEFING, WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE
ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. WHILE THERE WILL BE NO AGENDA FOR VAJPAYEE'S TALKS
WITH PAKISTANI LEADERS, THE PRESS REPORTS THAT ECONOMIC
ISSUES ARE EXPECTED TO DOMINATE THE DISCUSSIONS.

ACCORDING TO THE "TIMES OF INDIA" WHICH CARRIES THE FULLEST ACCOUNT, VAJPAYEE WILL PROPOSE THAT PAKISTAN GIVE INDIA TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR TRADE WITH AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN IN RETURN FOR SIMILAR FACILITIES IN INDIA FOR PAKISTANI TRADE WITH NEPAL AND BANGLADESH. OTHER POSSIBLE TOPICS INCLUDE WAYS TO INCREASE TRADE, THE INDO-PAK MARITIME BOUNDARY, ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICIAL INDIAN TRESENCE IN KARACHI AND SIMPLIFYING VISA PROCEDURES. THE PRESS IN GENERAL DOES NOT EXPECT PAKISTAN TO LET THE "EXTRANEIOUS ISSUE" OF KASHMIR INTERFER WITH DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH INDIA. NEVERTHELESS, THE "TIMES OF INDIA" CONCLUDED ITS REPORT ON VAJPAYEE'S VISIT BY NOTING THAT J&K CHIEF MINISTER SHEIKH ABDULLAH RECENTLY URGED THE GOI TO STEOP UP EFFORTS TO RECOVER AZAD KASHMIR.

3. SOME OBSERVERS SEE INDO-PAK ECONOMIC COOPERATION AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A SOUTH ASIAN COMMON MARKET, AS PROPOSED BY THE SHAH OR IRAN, TO INCLUDE IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA AND BANGLADESH. IN FACT, THE "STATEMAN" REPORTED THAT THE SHAH, WHO IS SAID TO BE EAGER TO OPEN UP OVERLAND TRADE WITH INDIA, WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PERSUADING GEN. ZIA UL-HAQ TO RESPOND TO INDIA'S FRIENDLY OVERTURES. GEN. ZIA IS REPORTED TO HAVE ASSURED THE SHAH THAT PAKISTAN'S DIFFERENCES WITH INDIA WOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF LARGER REGIONAL ECONOMIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 01280 241841Z

COOPERATION.

4. THE REPORTS ALSO MENTION THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA AND MEA JOINT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF PAKISTANI AFFAIRS I.P. SINGH ARE LIKELY TO ACCOMPANY VAJPAYEE TO PAKISTAN.

5. IN THEIR STRESS ON ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, THE SOUTH ASIAN COMMON MARKET, AND THE ROLE OF THE SHAH, THE PRESS REPORTS FOLLOW THE LINE TAKEN BY I.P. SINGH WITH EMBASSY NEW AND ISLAMABAD OFFICERS EARLIER THIS MONTH (NEW DELHI 702). AN ARTICLE IN THE JANUARY 22 "HINDU" BY THE USUALLY WELL-INFORMED CORRESPONDENT G.K. REDDY TAKES A SIMILAR APPROACH. REDDY STATES THAT "THERE ARE INNUMERABLE...ITEMS WHICH CAN USEFULLY FORM PART OF INDO-PAK BILATERAL TRADE IF ONLY THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD SHED THE PAST SUSPICIONS AND OPEN THE WAY FOR INCREASED COOPERATION." HE STATES THAT "THE SHAH'S IDEA OF A SOUTH ASIAN COMMON MARKET PROVIDES THE NECESSARY POLITICO-ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR CREATING A BETTER AWARENESS OF THE GREAT POTENTIALITIES FOR SUCH COOPERATION" (AS TRADE, TRAVEL, TRANSIT, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE), AND CONCLUDES THAT "THE JANATA GOVERNMENT

HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN MAKING THESE NEW APPROACHES
TO THE PRESENT MARTIAL LAW REGIME IN ISLAMABAD IN ALL GOOD
FAITH AND IN THE EARNEST BELIEF THAT PAKISTAN HAS
AS MUCH TO GAIN AS INDIA IN AGREEING TO LET THE
BYGONES BY BYGONES AND LOOKING FORWARD TO A MORE HOPEFUL
FUTURE FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE SUBCONTINENT."

6. AS FOR THE KASHMIR ISSUE, WHOSE REVIVAL BY PAKISTAN
HE STATES WILL BE A VIOLATION OF "THE VERY SPIRIT OF THE
SIMLA AGREEMENT", REDDY WRITES THAT "IF (IT)....IS
BROUGHT UP IN ONE FORM OR THE OTHER BY PAKISTAN, DURING
MR. VAJPAYEE'S TALKS IN ISLAMABAD OR GEN. ZIA UL-HUQ'S SUBSEQUENT
VISIT TO DELHI, EVEN IF BE FOR PURPOSES OF RECORD TO KEEP
THE ISSUE ALIVE AS AN OUTSTANDING PROBLEM, IT IS NOT GOING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 NEW DE 01280 241841Z

TO BE LOOKED UPON AS STUMBLING BLOCK TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING
IN OTHER FIELDS OF INDO-PAK COOPERATION."

7. THE GOI DOUBTLESS EXPECTS THAT THESE MESSAGES WILL BE
READ CAREFULLY IN ISLAMABAD AS WELL AS BY ITS CONSTITUENTS
AT HOME.
GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE01280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780036-1031
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780129/aaaaaygz.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4be5a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 702, 78 ISLAMABAD 700
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3723600
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VAJPAYEE VISIT TO PAKISTAN
TAGS: PGOV, IN, PK, (VAJPAYEE, ATAL BHARI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbsc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4be5a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014